

## APPENDIX A

### **A. Additional analyses on cardiovascular risk factor trends**

Table A1 shows trends in SII in cardiovascular disease risk factors in the period 1974-2003 for 40 and 45 year old men and women. Data stems from three health examination surveys in Oppland and Finnmark counties in Norway<sup>28</sup>. All surveys applied a main questionnaire which was sent to all invitees on before examination and collected at the examination site. Measurements of height, weight and blood pressure were offered to all participants in mobile or stationary offices, and a non-fasting blood sample was drawn. The serum was through the whole period analysed at Ullevål University Hospital, Oslo, for total cholesterol and triglycerides and the analytical levels were kept constant. The participation rate was nearly 90 % in 1974-78<sup>27</sup> and around 70 % in 1985-88<sup>26</sup>. In the 2000-2003 survey 1869 men (51 %) and 2237 women (64 %) in age 40/45 years participated, and of those 1816 men and 2170 women had valid measurements.

Table A1. Slope Index of inequality (SII) for classical cardiovascular risk factors in 3 health examination surveys from 1970-2003 in two Norwegian counties.<sup>26-28</sup> Study members were 40 and 45 years when the studies were conducted. Bold indicate significant SII value.

	1974-76	1985-88	2000-03	trend p-value**	Comment on the trend	interaction gender*time***
<b>Men (n)</b>	(7111)	(8424)	(1816)			
Cholesterol (mmol/l)	0.49	0.38	0.26	0.007	Down	P=0.044
Triglycerides (mmol/l)	0.32	0.40	0.32	0.460	Stable	P=0.065
Systolic BP (mmHg)	5.7	3.5	4.03	0.612	Stable	P=0.043
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.817	Stable	P=0.040
Daily smokers (%)	35	30	38	0.755	Stable	P=0.318
Physically inactivity*	7	6	12	0.764	Stable	P=0.474
<b>Women (n)</b>	(6821)	(8564)	(2170)			
Cholesterol	0.68	0.60	0.27	0.059	Down	

(mmol/l)					
Triglycerides					
(mmol/l)	0.46	0.43	0.25	0.001	Down
Systolic BP					
(mmHg)	10.7	7.0	2.64	0.0001	Down
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	2.6	1.9	0.9	0.020	Down
Daily					
smokers (%)	27	36	42	0.054	Up
Physically					
inactivity*	11	9	15	0.185	Stable

\* Physically active in leisure time less than 4 hours per week, self-reported.

\*\* Trend was estimated in a linear regression with the SII value as dependent and survey as independent variable, coded 1 for 1974-76, and 2 and 3 for the others. The regression was weighted with the inverse SE as weight using pweight in Stata.

\*\*\* Interaction term gender\*time was included to check if the SII trend was similar in men and women. Significant interaction values indicate different trends in men and women.